American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

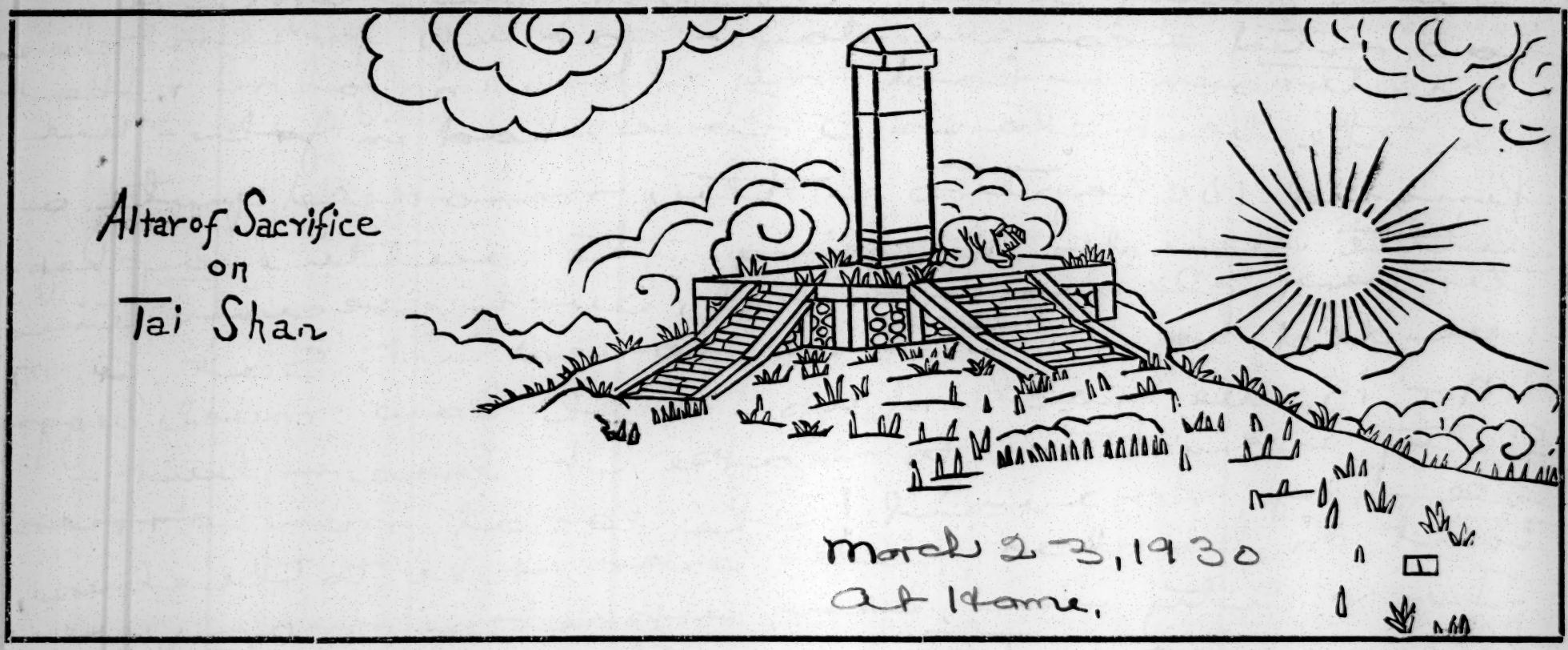
Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
March 23, 1930–June 15, 1930

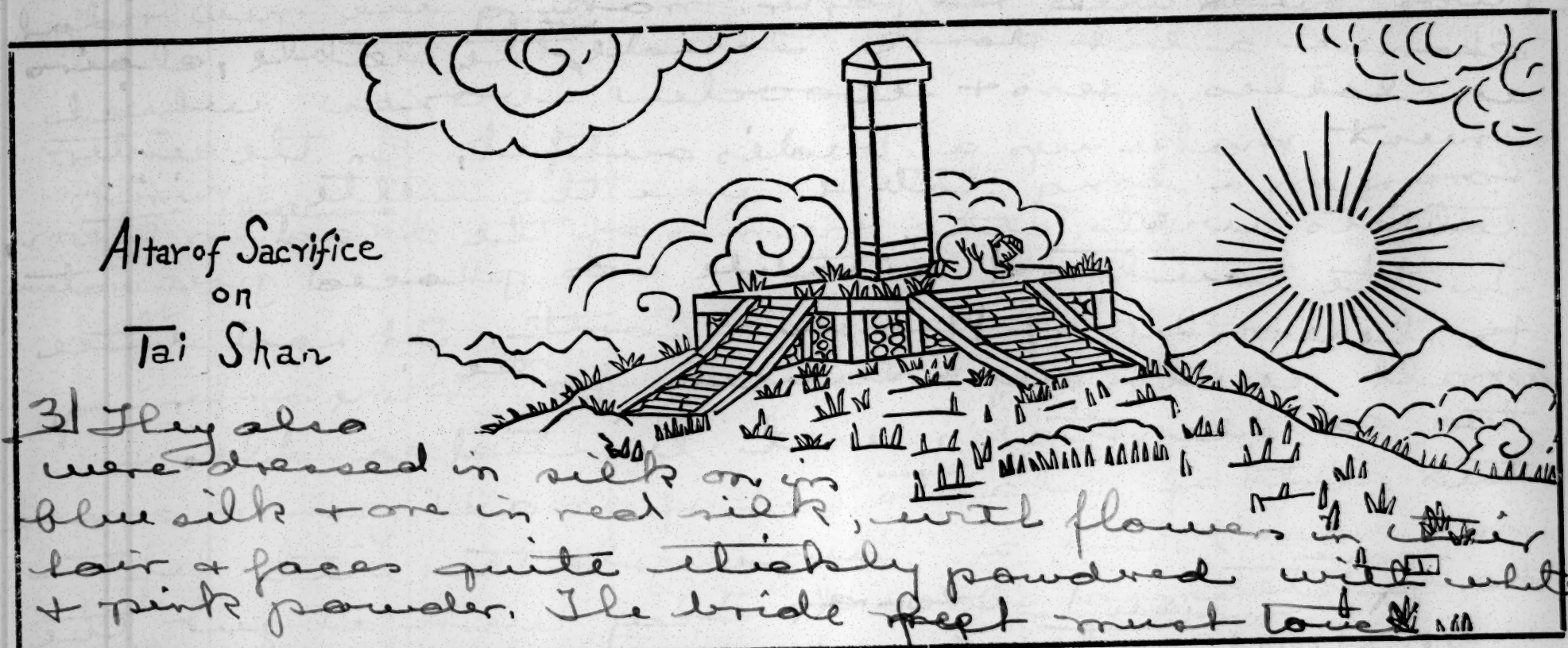
Box Number:	***Folder Number:***
1	28



Dearest Loved Ones!

Well, I'll bet you're in for a week from the country. I wrote you from "Rocky Valley" a little over two weeks ago. + am sorry that my letter is delayed again. The class + work there finished up nicely. We had our same number on to the end. Mr. Coonrod + was out for a few days and he with the local church group of christian men - the deacon + elders went to the markets + nearby places to preach. The little vic. was such a joy. They used it time + again to get a crowd. At one place they were so cordially received - They brought out a table for them + one said, "we want to hear your message - don't play anymore". At one place an old gentleman with true chinese hospitality wanted to give them money + when that was refused said at least they must give them food. Cook was so thrilled over those trips. We were held by our classes this time so did not get out to do that kind of work. The men did it well tho so it was all right.

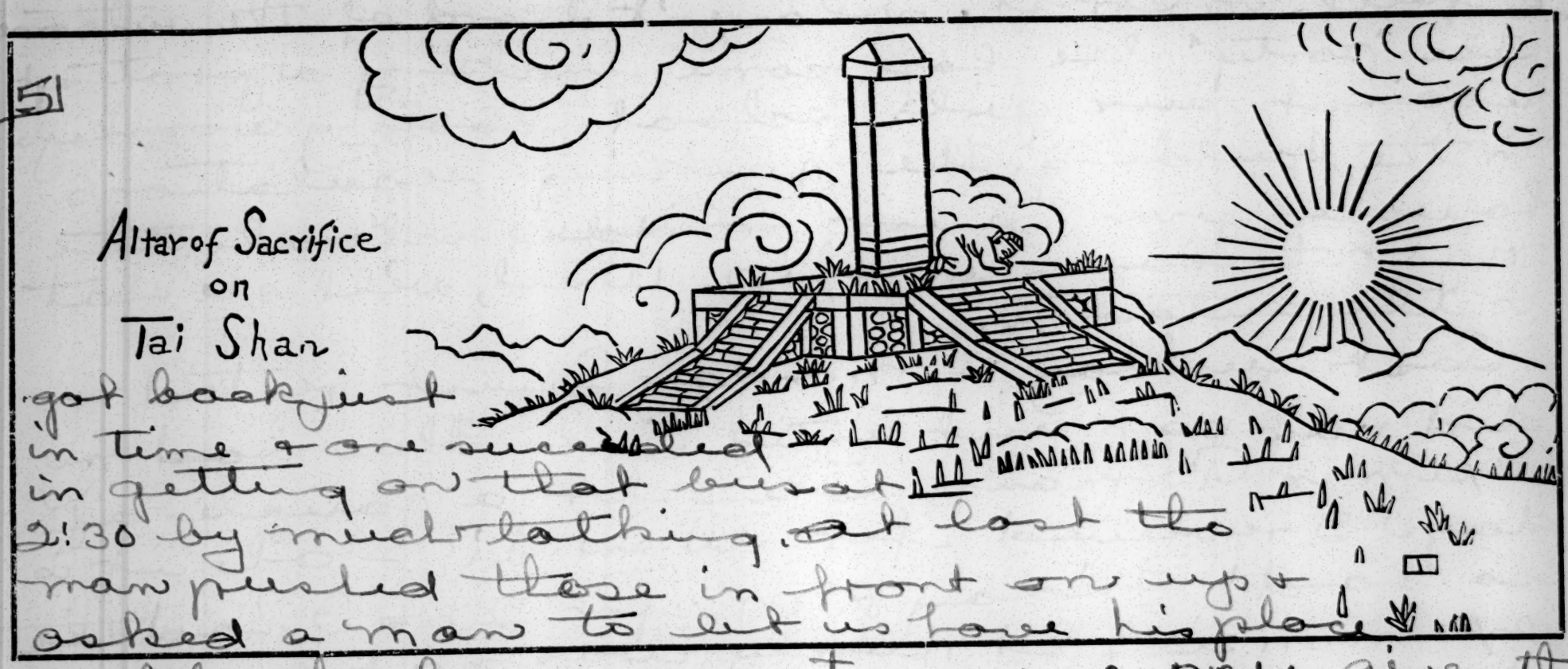
21. I was pretty tired the last few days there - so I rested a couple days - got up for last class (in afternoon + had my class in John. That was the best class I have had in John - we finished 10 chapters + they memorized quite a little besides keeping the outline by chapter very clearly in mind. Such precious times we did have. I just loved it. Sat. a.m. Mar. 15. We packed up - tho all how much luggage I try every time to make it less - but - seems of no avail! The local men carried that on bamboo poles over + li to the bus. Siuna City had been upset + many were fleeing from there + as the buses started from there we had little chance of getting on. One we + - too full for any hope - + we waited again an hour. This time by much talking + pushing the cooks + leader got some luggage ontop + they hung on to the back steps + we again settled down, surrounded by baggage + inquisitive bystanders to wait for another. One came almost empty - on top no baggage + set our hopes high — only to be told that they were the wrong company - had not paid for right of running a public bus over that road. They were privately chartered — so again we settled down to wait. The beating of drums + cymbals + blows of long brass horns attracted our attention up the street where a wedding ceremony was just taking place. Miss Thos + I ran to see leaving Miss Tow to watch our luggage. We got there in time to see the bride attired in red silk garments + head + faced covered with red cloth being led out of her home by two women, one on each side.



Altar of Sacrifice
on
Tai Shan

31 They also were dressed in silk or in blue silk + one in red silk, with flowers in their hair + faces quite thickly powdered with white + pink powder. The bride ~~kept~~ must touch nothing but red, symbolizing happiness, on that day, so two pieces of not too new piece of red cloth are used, one is put down in front + as she leaves it the man following her picks it up + throws it over her head to one in front who in turn spreads it out + thus she does a slow, wedding mord but because she's waiting for the carriers to be spread. She was thus led to a brightly decorated sedan chair. The groom preceded her following the procession, about 12 yards ahead) to his + then to the time of the cymbals + horns the procession went outside of the village + made a big circle + then returned. She was marrying a man in the same village so they had to take her out + bring her back. I forgot to say that the vivid blue the bride cloth up showing the bride's face as she was entering the chair. This is very bad luck + afterward the two ladies held it most securely. While they were making the circuit we went to the home of the groom to see the preparations for the ceremony on his arrival but as we were afraid we'd miss the bus we saw only the table + the rooms. The window

4 was covered with red paper, making the new bridal chamber a bit dark. Inside the table, chairs a clothes press + wooden boxes which must make up a bride's outfit. In the center room on a long table were the little spirit tablets with the names of the dead on them. In the courtyard a table was placed preparatory to the worship of Heaven + Earth. It had three small pewter cups + saucers for the wine offering, two candlesticks with lighted candles + two pots of plants (of a small pine + one of bamboo) and a huge plate with fifteen large steamed loaves. They were about the size of a round dinner plate. They had stocked in the steaming + I was told that means they are smiling and it means good luck. I had thought they'd maybe be not considered good looking. A mat in front of the table was placed for the groom to stand on to pour out the wine in the little cups. light three incense sticks + bow to gods of Heaven + earth. In the room too he must bow before the ancestral tablets. The bride here can put aside the red veil a bit. She does not worship only stands by her husband. Someplaces she must sit on the brick bed for three days + not leave it + people are free to come to inspect the bride When we went one of family was most courteous — He cleared the way thru the already crowded courtyard — says, "Here are teachers", "There are the lady teachers". "One is foreigner + wants to see our ways"
It gave the family "face" for us to go + we were invited to a slaughter. a high place where we could have seen all but had to leave. We



Altar of Sacrifice
on
Tai Shan

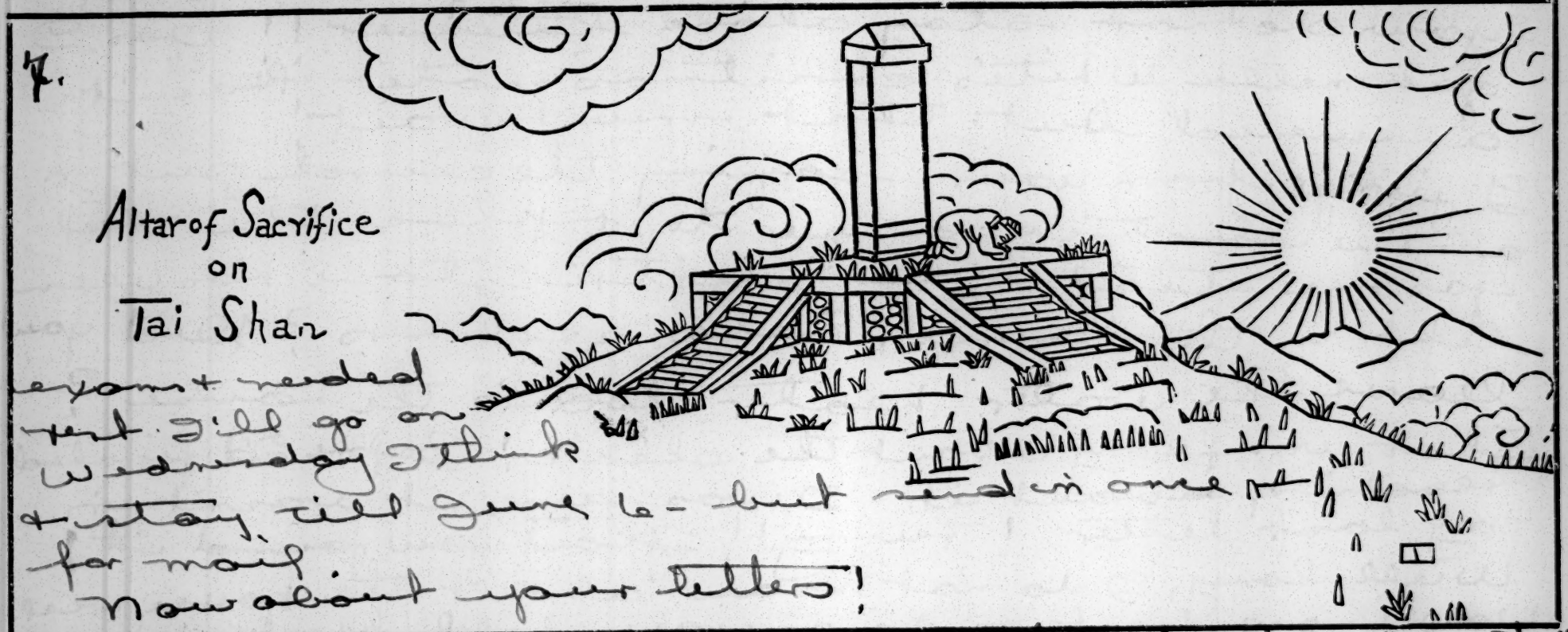
got back just
in time + one succeeded
in getting on that bus at
2:30 by much bathing. At last the
man pushed those in front on up +
asked a man to let us have his place
+ at last, luggage on top, we were given the
tiny collapsible seats in the aisle. After
delay of changing a tire we soon were
on our way. I was so glad that this bus
had the right to go over a newly repaired
road and it was surely a joy. A
very nicely dressed man behind me ad-
dressed me in English - in the most beautiful
low tones with no accent at all; I was
so surprised. He was one of the government
officials - a graduate of St. John's in
Shanghai. He said he was a christian. That
so for it made no difference in his holding
that position. Some places it does. The order
has been given that no christian can belong
to the "Party" + many have lost positions
+ suffered much for their belief. My teacher
told of three girls from our church in country
who went in to a government normal training
class in Tsinan. Because they were christians were
sent home + later allowed to return +
given three weeks in which to reject their

faith in Christ. I haven't heard of the outcome. The "party" here has some making a protest against our girls school having worship in the building. The nanking regulations however give Senior middle schools the right to have worship. Well, we'll see what is the outcome.

Last Sunday + Monday I just rested + did not get out until Tues. Then had my exam in Romans. Then for a couple of days I reviewed for Wen Li - oh it is so hard! Friday P.M. for 2 hrs I had the exam on it. It surely was not easy but the Master surely helped me wonderfully. Some want me to stay in town now + study but I just can't. I'll put in more time in study out there but I must go. I'll rest more + be careful. I must do the rest of this book of Wen Li - memorize about 300 scripture verses + location + recognize 2000 character cards by last of June. I'd like to get it all over + be able at mission meeting to have completed 4 yrs. of language!

Yesterday a.m. went over to lead the chapel service for Lutheran girls Bible School. Etta asked me to go - then to the dentist + home to sleep. Evening Etta + Lydia came here for supper - This Japanese dentist is pretty good but he surely is the limit he can't find a cavity at all. It must just be pointed out to him. After I came yesterday I found another so that means another trip tomorrow. I'm late going out this time because at

4.



exams + needed rest. I'll go on Wednesday I think + stay till June 6 - but send in once for mail.

Now about your letters!

I think both are very artistic! I loved their "empty" pictures!! Your news of the return to woodbury! at first I felt very much opposed to it + quite upset in fact. But now it is absolutely committed to the latter above + I am at peace. I can see mumsie how upset can maybe be very happy fixing up the place for sale + moving the flower beds etc! Of course since you say you will have someone with you I am relieved at that. I know you've been happy with Eula + Roy + I know they've been wonderful to you + I have surely felt at ease about you when you were with them. I am sure too that if your present experiment don't work you will be happy again with them. I hope you did not take all the furniture back this all at once leaving a burden on Roy + Eula - so they can buy gradually. If Uncle Arthur's come to be with you for a time - that's fine! I'm all the more glad! The fall - school teachers - no upset! be all right! You're in planning distance of Bessie + Eula + Leo, even, + so they

If can help as you need! Be very sure that you do not stay alone however!! Yes, I got nella White's christmas note - It isn't answered but that must wait!
I judge from your saying the church put in a new electric range to replace the old gas one that your electric stove has been left in the house. Eula said so? Did you leave the water heater too in the house? That was funny about the sheets! Before I'd finished reading about it - I was sure it wasn't in my last letter! Funny!! glad you found it!
Well, honey, I do not know about the house yet. You know best + do as you feel best about it. It will be nice to be at home when I go home but you must not keep it for sentimental reasons for me - because it is very uncertain that I can spend more than a few weeks there - I must be at some school — so if you're tied with the house you might not be able to go with me + I could not be there much. So do not let my side of it keep you from selling it — nor what I have said make you sacrifice it - It could be rented again. Bless you, dearie, for thinking of me! That "bandit letter" Mr. Gill surely butchered - untacked mistakes in typing + some sentences with incorrect English. I must be more careful - maybe I wrote it that way. I think in cutting it he did it. If folks enjoy them all right - but I don't like such messes printed. That sounds pretty strong — but I wish he'd been more careful. If it was my fault all right. I apologize!
Too bad about Mr. Hansen. Did you read the Lagans? Sorry Eula had so many headaches again! Mr. Norris thought the new Bible a beauty! Enclosing some pictures, must go to have a little rest before school! Lots + lots of love, dearest little mother of mine! I love you so dear! Bye. God bless + keep + comfort you
Loving as ever

Wo Ku Chuang
April 11, 1930
月 日

No. .....

Dearest mumsie:

Mr. Coonradt's coolie brought out a big pile of letters to me on Wednesday 9th + as usual my first act is to quickly glance thru to find your letters + there were 9. (Feb 27 + mar 8.) Such nice fat letters — I surely did enjoy them. That was a great mail- a letter too from Marion first I'd heard for a long time + one from Mattie Pt. + Mrs. Mostberger beside a lot of other mail. We were about fast packed to leave the place from which I wrote your last letter when the coolie came at about 10 o'clock with basket of medicine, some fruit the stove had gotten repaired, our Chinese tracts + catechisms which we'd used all up! Also he brought a couple of new Chinese records which caused such a crowd to gather that it wasn't till after 2 that I got my dinner — but I'd succeeded in getting your letters read, a moody Monday too came along. I'll answer your letters first. The church bulletin is fine — + Richard's 100 in arithmetic

2/ Well, now I have been thinking of
your for a couple of weeks at Wood-
burn. I'd expect by now you're moved
in + cleaned + cleaned some more -
with such a veteran as Mrs. Vick
as a side partner I expect the
pair of you make the dirt fly!
Then soon daffodils will be up
+ you'll work your poor dear self
to a shadow cutting grass (what
I hope the man will do) planting
+ whatnot! I'll think your change
will be beneficial if you don't
overdo! I'm so glad you're the
man + wife to side with you. There
is so much to do that you ought
not to do + if you had it a man
there you'd do it. I'm glad too you're
not going to depend only on visits
of relatives for company. However I
hope Aunt Glennie will come to be
with you. Clyde too may come +
Aunt Callie can come too. How
are you arranging it - cook
together? Do they pay rent or how?
They sound to be very suitable - where
did you find them? So glad that
you told me about the Bible being from
Leo. It had no name + was sent from
publishers direct. Yesterday because

3/ We were delayed in leaving because of the rain, & the crowd were at Miss Chan's & Wang rooms I took the class No & wrote immediately - quite a long letter. Told him why I was so delayed in thanking him etc. Miss Wang now adds her bows & thanks for the bath bag. She indulged one night & was so enthusiastic over it! She said be sure to tell you "thanks" for her. Oh yes, the day we left the old lady who delivered rice last fall when I went to Moo Chia Ling - said to be sure to send regards to you! She repeated it several times for fear I'd forget! Did you move everything back to Woodburn rice rugs, curtains etc! Eula will have to get all new then won't she? That was good you could get Eula's things done before the move. She will miss you & you'll miss them too I expect most at first. You've been so close to them there 3 years. Well, dear, they still are close. The picture of Mrs. Law must have been slower - it didn't come with the letter in which you told of sending it. I'll be so glad to see it! I'll be glad indeed honey dear to present the picture to mother Law with all the

4) necessary chaos. I'm sure she will be delighted with it — it surely is sweet of you to send it. Float photographer-ment, like a wizard to get a "sweet picture" of me, as you said it was! I'll go to him when I get home + see what he can do! By then I'll surely need a wizard to take one!
Yes I saw about the homecoming in the paper. It must have been nice. Mrs. M. also wrote of it. + how did enjoy seeing Eula + Ray + how glad she is that you'd going to be there. From her letter she's not at all in favor of the return to Bales + policy of loving all so fine + then locked up. She said she'd rather more need done for children + less for building. Need not repeat that. Said that's why she left the aid — You surely got a bargain on your paper!! Sorry about bogaws my! but with such a winter as is reported all over U.S. + (we had worse cold here too of years) it is not surprising. Hope the loss won't be too great + honey — if you need money tell.
Mrs. This is now Sunday eve April

5/13th + I'm alone — cooking a bit of millet porridge for supper — The cook went yesterday to Fuingtao

No. 月 日

+ as mrs Clow + Wang had to go in one for dental work + one for "eyes" they all went together — leaving me with the teacher (who is living over inside the village wall) to study + to love the classes + church services. There is a workshop here where some twenty or more girls sort, mend holes, + count + sew in bundles the hair nets that come from all these surrounding villages. The manager is a Christian + has them stop work with pay - 2 hrs a day to study the gospel. I've had them so for + they are so enthusiastic + sing very well. Mrs Clow may teach them on her return but I'd love to go on. However just now I'm trying to concentrate a bit more on studying than usual + when they aren't busy otherwise they can do it - tho the practice is good for me. I must say that I've plenty of other food + you mustn't think I'm starving myself because the cook is gone — but just don't feel hungry tonight. The manager here has a new baby girl - 2 months old

& she surely is a darling I hate
leave over to Lodi for today yet but
must go!

You'll be amused to know that our
dressing table & place for books &
place for writing (part of this was
written there) is a coffin! There was
just this one empty room for us
to live in & in it is stored somebodys
coffin — made of very thick wood —
cover is flat — & makes an excellent
table! The custom is different here than
from home. An elderly person very
early prepares the coffin & it is
stored in some outer room till
time comes to use it — The grave is
also dug & bricked inside & a big
mound of dirt piled on it. I love
Mrs. Tan's — The thicker the
wood the more expensive & sometimes
wood is several inches thick (Mrs
per room isn't as gruesome as it
sounds as its all covered with
oil paper — Reminds me of the
story of Mr. Coonradt who is said
to have gotten to a place where
there was no bed & he slept in
a coffin!

7] How I praise the master for His wonderful grace at Mao Chia Ling! I can't No. begin to tell you all but want to share a bit of what your prayers have helped do! She is so joy like it + I feel like I'm constantly to be treading holy ground. The one Christian woman's husband has for years - persecuted her + opposed her belief + all - when asked to believe said, I had time" etc. If anyone ever was born again he is - the very expression on his face shows it. He's not too busy for anything now for master + is so happy - can't he won't seem income any more + while he's quite poor - with six children + just recently owned his own home even has decided to sell & save to buy a church building + says he'll go every Sat. to remind all those who gave their names as true believers to church - our dreams at night of a place to worship filled with people. What is so fine too says we want to be independent + manage ourselves + our own money! The old mission policy if such a place would have been "we'll rent you a chapel + furnish it + pay for an evangelist"

But we're getting forward of that policy all the time. Present plan is you do what you can but do it yourself - its yours! Its the fundamental step in a self-supporting indigenous church. How it rejoiced my heart! Miss Claus + Wang lived there - they got there earlier than I; the nice room had been fixed for me but no provision for them for which I was sorry - I didn't have anything to do with it + got there later. This mrs. moo had sweet potatoes drying on 2/3 of kang + there was just enuf left for one person to stretch out on - + she said to them, "Can you two live here"; they surely were cramped but couldn't say no. Because that would mean they scorned it as small - later sites wanted them to move to better quarters but still they could not - + couldn't even come to live with me - because of hurting them! well, their living there bore fruit in the pastor's life changed!

More than twenty names were taken as inquirers. These were carefully picked + chosen from the great

9) number who wanted to get names written. But at last there were so many miss thaw - wouldn't write

No. ..... A - B

the name thing + in chime 10 th month were to go back to have definite instruction classes. How they could get the crowd to sing!! + several brought chinese flutes + played the songs. As we might + went over to hear the crowd in large building + surely must have made to Master's heard happy to hear the volume of praise. The field is ripe + the christians already there (2) are respected + their conduct is right so that makes all the difference in the world! The family of head man of village - most respected family - old man is a scholar + his son had a degree from emperor under the old system of scholarships + examinations. His nephew is the one baptized man. He said the Lord surely had exceeded his hopes. I did pray at for this visit - + see the whole family were open + hearty in response + old man wanted to write his name. We were entertained

10/ twice in their home — + last day the old lady asked Miss Claus to write out a blessing which she could learn to say. As a result of this contact there will be ten or more little girls in the village school, supported from temple land, + a number a little feet unbound. This old headman's family is of the old china + strictest of rules etc. Some years ago the son, still young, died + his young wife dressed in her bridal garments went out to a platform especially for the purpose built on the street + hanged herself with a wide piece of silk. This is supposed to be extremely high virtue + to gain one great esteem. Then she was buried with husband. The idea is that a girl of this class couldn't remarry — + being so young might not always be straight — + so that was often done in past. Roads are lined with marble stones erected to commerate such. The teacher said it is not always voluntary — at such a death of son — often sons people will give the bride a piece of silk + in the

11 presence of family of both sides - give girl a piece of silk + she hangs herself. The chinese character for hanging oneself is made up of silk 糸 + the word to mean benefit 益. See the idea - that to this she is to gain merit.

The Buddhist priest who was so rich to me last year + listened to every word + watched everything this year is studying the N.T. Mr. Coonradt came thru + stayed in same room with him + they had great talks. One nite after Mr. C. talking to a group in the room, he closed the door + went straight to Mr. C. saying, "Can such as I become a Christian?" He confided in Mr. C. his doubts + dissatisfation with Buddhism. Of course since so many temples are being destroyed now + property being taken over for other purposes - it behooves him to look out - but aside from that his sincerely an inquirer!

There were a few who gave names who were so eager to bind our things on their wheelbarrows here to walk along - Well, Master himself water the

read this own word! It surely is a joy to have had a part, tho small in it!

You may wonder why your last letter had so many stamps. It went in to postoffice + was overweight so they sent it back for 10 more cents! Soaked pretty well plastered! But I had used up my 10¢ stamps, nity-nite dearest, I must get to bed + rest - today is 15 of Chinese month + temple just in front of my room has had the priest reading the Sacred Book + has tapped a big bell two evenings to call worshippers to pray + remember it is time to burn incense.

April 23, 1930.

Again half in - + half out of suitcases + baskets we are delayed by rain. We were to go on today 20 li to another village but there is evidently purpose in our being here - maybe it is for a bit of rest + "catching" up with letters. Tho it is raining a little still there won't be much free time even so - unless it just pours + fills streets with water, making

13) it impossible for folks to get here!
My! yesterday was a full day! I
studied a little bit with, constant
interruptions, + then P.M. a group
of christians 10 li away came to get
"eyes" treated + one boy had worms +
they wanted to hear the victrola +
one of my girls of Sin Chia Chiu has
just become the bride in the family
+ she came to see me. Well, we had
tea + cookies (Chinese) + listened
to victrola + then began on diseases -
after they'd gone then for 2 hrs. I stood
giving med. + putting in eye drops +
etc etc - to the crowd that had
come for first time monthly. Miss
Claus + Miss Wang were in the
next room getting in good work
in telling the gospel story. We say!
um I was - then after packing up
med. case I ate supper - about
7:30. There came 7 or 8 men who
said they wanted to hear the gospel
they had'nt hear before. Well, I
said we'd time always to tell
that story - so told mine I
talked to them. They listened

[4] eagerly + admitted that they had sin, worship of idols was wrong etc + asked well how shall we worship God to please him? It was a blessed hour - Because one had just returned from South + had not heard vic. then played a record + they left. This place has signs of awaking but here the street preaching is not very effective as there have been talks here for many years running + formerly an evangelist lived here - so those who hear on street, many are gospel hardened - One man said to Mr. Moo - "were graduated in it" He said - "Yes, graduated - to at last we last"! There are many tho who have not heard + eagerly listen. Here the approach has more to be individual - + that's what I like best after all.

Guess will go - not finished but Mr. Yang goes in so I hastily close with Heaps of love,

Irene

Austin Country
May 5, 1930

No. 月 日

Dearest mumsie;

Tomorrow is a market not for + there is a post office there so I'll write what I can today so you'll get a note at least. Again we are held up by rain. We were to go today 25 li away - the cook to go on with the luggage + we to stop at a Christians home 18 li away + have dinner + then go on in afternoon. However, we're not packing up as yesterday + Sat nite. Sun. it rained very hard so roads are pretty muddy - I see the sun has just come out + Mrs Claw + Wang said "we must go". I suppose we'll be again that state of indecision - go or not?!((Anyway the rains make our going easier if delayed for lay the dust + we have clear clean air to breathe. So while cook is gone to the market to get provisions - Mrs Claw + Wang have boiled my eggs to their breakfast, I am squatted on the mud bed writing. Will add sequel on it pretty soon to eat - Something a thin gruel - mush

H steamed bread, a green vegetable + eggs cooked together, greens (fresh from a can cooked in U.S.A.) + Instant Postum — How is that? We are living together — Ike first time with miss Chow + Wang this way — all on one K'ang + what ever we two families have to eat put together. Miss Wang just brought the butter carton + asked if there was anything in this tom box — I keep butter in it + eat from it — cleaner than taking it out on a plate — This one is in last stages I'll admit! They were at first a bit uncomfortable living this way — I wasn't as with miss Hsiao + Tang I've become accustomed to it. But after a few days, they said now they'd become accustomed too they didn't want to separate. Its much more fun + much more companionship. We've laughed so — at the place the onions are so sweet + good — this last week we've eaten so many 8 cts about 10 lbs. in four or five days. They grow so tall + green leaves so luxuriant that it isn't as bad as it might sound but good. enuf! Now I must tell you

3) onions. All eat them rather isn't the social bow as at home. We surely have enjoyed them. We said we'd have to change our manners, to

No. 月 日

"Onion: Breakfast is over - + I'll write a bit more,

I have had mor 12, + 20 letters. This last week a man brought out a pack of letters, yours, Eulas, + one from Mr. Miller - He said "no price on those letters. I can't figure out whether it is a private press or what the didn't answer. He prints all of John + Isabel's letters - even seems to print their home letters - He sent their last ones to me - He said it was already charged to act in Heaven; + whatever I wanted he'd print for me. I wish he'd take money tho - I'd feel more free - But maybe I'll ask him again. I was thinking if you sometime want to put parts of some letters together + send to him it would be all right, - But this doesn't need to be - It just occurred to me. He sent me copies of the letters + they surely are finely done,

The picture of Mrs. Tan is at home I think - cook said there was a big package not heavy but he

I didn't bring it, nor did the man the second time & I was sorry yesterday as Friday Miss Law who had gone home between 2 places had send the hired man here (30 li (10 li return) to send a love package & I could have sent it with him but I didn't know before, will send it later. It was a "love-pocket" indeed — & it was a package of a special bread which is her mother's specialty & a short garment & pair of trousers. Such pretty material, beautifully made, short garment suitable for just this time of year — & cool trousers to wear in hotter weather — They had bought them for themselves & also made some for me! It was so sweet of them — They are so busy with the work & to make me things I surely feel they should not. They are just to nurse & feel responsible to keep me properly clothed — It is sweet for it would be impossible without their help to know what to wear or buy! They are darling girls — Miss C & Wang are too — those two are a bit closer — been with them more —

5] Thanks for sending the dues - I was surely happy to hear about your getting all settled + had a good ~~time~~ No thinking about where you'd put the furniture etc - I can't decide about dining table is it in the kitchen? I've forgotten whether you sold it or not - my ink runs at the utter place - so I like you will have to use pencil. Glad you've all fixed up upstairs & think you'll be very comfy. Glad you'll [illegible] a nice lady to live with, & thank the mother! Glad you're to meet you & take you in the car. Thanks for [illegible] me. If you'd have a few plans put in about middle of outer wall of living room where the bookcases were it would be nice - make that lovely - maybe the boards go wide. You're having odd doors over newly - & open kitchen woodwork new style? Good odds for colored bathroom fixtures etc. Glad Molly gave them the needed dressing & rug. Such told about making it over!

Uncle Arthurs are probably with you now. Time -

[4] You didn't say about my room - who is sleeping in it? Is it your guest room? Get that old clock torn away will the fire! So glad Bud + Bernice are so near + can go often to see you. My dearest, I fear you'll have to be disappointed about my being able to be home [much] - nine months at school - 3 months vacation - so you'd best just plan to go with me + live with me that way (a little boy brought me my ink) That will be our only solution I imagine if not Moody it will be at Biblical Seminary in New York. However that is uncertain. All of the letters I sent - from other Lydia etc you just keep for me - if you have occasion to use them all right. I'll want them maybe as reference material when I come home. You send out reports you need not send to all those presbyterial societies for Mrs. Higgins does that + they will have duplicates that way.

I think I've been thru both of your letters + answered everything hastily to be sure —

I want to tell you something of

7] this place. For the most part it has been a bit disappointing + results not quite what we'd hope for. We came
No. 月 日
one week - they decided to have that week the next for meetings + general ev. work. It is an old church + we've found the reason for its backslidden coldness is the disgraceful conduct of a couple of elders + one elder's family + also the fact that members were taken in - with too little an understanding of what they were doing - not born again for sure - formerly 100 maybe + now a mere handful - just scattered + gone - like parable of seed + sower. We'll never had 5 o'clock prayer meeting + service each nite + classes in day time - but this church group seem just leaders - homes - + we've found where we get without the vacuum of this bad reputation of these elders there is a real longing + real spirit of listening + reception. How like the Pharisees of old. They shut the gate to kingdom - themselves enter not in nor allow others to enter! That's the general situation tho it has not been without individual incidents for which we thank God. A poor

8/ member, a deacon, became ill away from home - has now returned - We went to see him & ab the radiant joy of his testimony - How he'd learned from God in his illness & how wonderfully God provided for him to come home etc'. It was a joy to hear him. He said "I know my Master now" That p.m. went to home of a cold christian whose daughter-in-law became of husband's death, hoping to stay up night to forgive her sins, refrain from eating any meat or vegetables - We had a good talk with her & she seemed to hear gladly & understand. One afternoon, we went to a home - & room & courtyard were quite filled with folks & we talked to them, answering their questions & explaining. This kind of preaching gets so much nearer than a general service. A fine looking gentleman of scholarly bearing asked another to ask whether next day we'd go to his home, We did & such a joy! the new mostly could read & were so enthusiastic - gave them tracts & they read them & explained them to us! Men as a rule aren't nearly so superstitious as the women. One man said to his son, when burning

9/ paper + incense was burned, 'Go, + call your master, I want her to hear this'. No. Were were the several hours + felt it not in vain! One day a number of educated men from the Govt office came - + one of them said, "Who said is girl has good education!" They came frankly to criticize. Well, mrs Wang talked to them + at end one man said to this lady, "Auntie yours eyes are open - you know the truth I am blind - we are in the dark." The Holy Spirit surely did bless. One man has been coming for treatment for most awful inflamed swollen eye lids that I've ever seen - he says he wants to believe - came to church yesterday!

Sat we went across the river to some villages + one especially was receptive - all the crowd in courtyard + room - One old lady when mrs Wang + mrs Chow explained that to burn incense + paper was wrong - she changed. She said: I have no son nor daughter to burn paper

many for me after Odie so now I have just burned it continually hoping to store it up for future use. As at last she understood she said, all right, I'm thru. I won't do it any more! Oh! you've come to save me + I thank you! I'm thru - won't burn any more! We gave out tracts, a lot of them, + went on out of village - We'd not gone far when wife of headman of village came running after us. She wanted us to go back + sheid heat water for us etc, So eager she was - Said she'd missed chance to hear, Again to the big crowd that soon collected they told the story. There is one Christian woman there of good reputation + very enthusiastic - especially in prayer a power - so we feel sure there will be fruit from that visit.

Some real funny things happen. There as usual they were remarking about my white skin etc - + one old lady said, "My isn't the old lady pretty" - meaning me, my light

11/ hair with a bit of grey in it made her think I was aged!! It was rare! Miss Chow said yes - when she was younger she was more beautiful". We all laughed + the (girls) called the great grandmother + Miss Chow grandfather + the old lady who said it then laughed with us!

On way home after visit to five villages that day + nice dinner in home of a wealthy elder, as we were crossing the bridge - a man came running from behind + catching up with us barked long + hard + said to a man carrying baskets of eggs on a long pole - Well, that's the first time I ever saw one of "foreign devils old women" Kuniz loo pòo - It was funny - but the egg man said, "He lives in a little town + doesn't know manners nor proper speech, the foreign teacher will make fun of him." "No, I said, I understand. We have some such funny things happen - One sense of humor is a great blessing.

The sun continues this flirting with us - going in + coming out again. I expect if the carters will go — will go on anyway. I'd rather. So now I'll close + go out to see what the prospect is. If we don't go I must study - Home exams when I return in June about 17-18 or so.

Please remember - one in the classical language + one on memorizing Q.'s & answers 100 scripture question — with chapter + verse!

My! it is a joy to be here to help - bear the burdens too, I too think that Christ will share with us the fellowship of His suffering in grief over these cold backslidden ones - How unworthy I am! + How earthen is the vessel which holds the treasure. - But How precious the treasure!!

Much love to all — at Woodburn. Bethel, Gervais + Aurora — Your Irene.

Later -

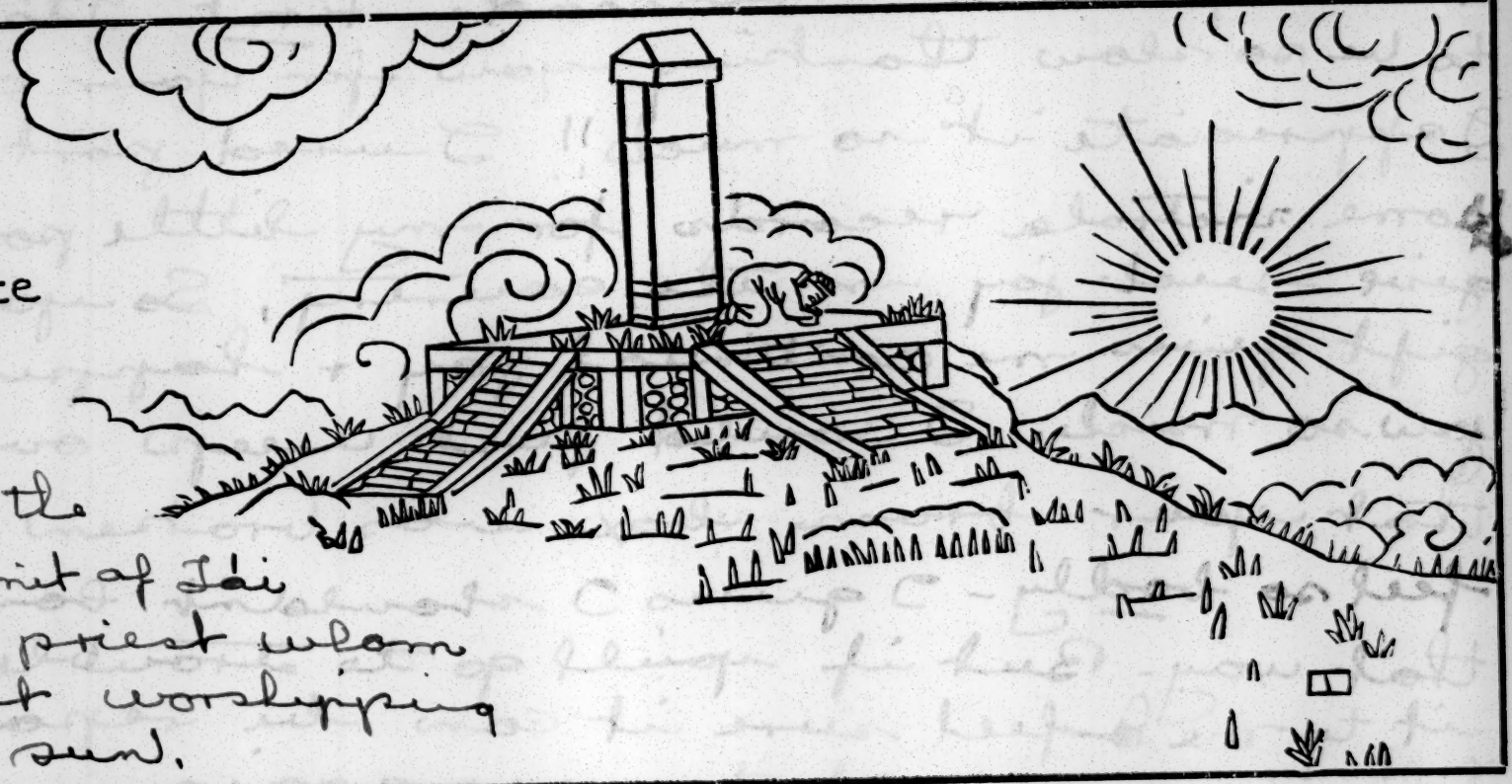
Forest area;

May 16, 1930
月 日

No.

Tomorrow a man is going to Tsingtao - writing
Just add a note, after that
last note - we were kept there a
day by rain - & ah the joy of the
day - an old woman, who possessed
by demon, cured diseases by demon
power - Well, she came that
day & how she listened & said
to Mrs Clow - she'd had a dream
some years (10 yrs ago) in which she
said she'd see heaven & but in
reality it was the other place =
Well, she heard & believed was so
happy - She said to Mrs Clow, "Why
didn't you come sooner?" Mrs Clow
said, never mind, it isn't too late.
Well, we were glad said waited.
Second day in glorious sunshine we
set out for our 20 li - walk -
passed a big temple, where crowds
were burning paper by bundles
& crowded there to buy & sell
as a country fair & to see the
theatrical on an open stage, oh! the

2] crowd: If we ~~stopped~~ even crowds made all impassable - so we rushed thru - up the 38 ~~flights~~ steps to ~~temple~~ temple of clean heart In early days a woman came her with her sister from ~~China~~ South China hunting her husband. ~~but could not find him.~~ The ~~doctor~~ sister said, Sister-in-law - your heart is not true or you could find him — the sister-in law then cut her ~~breast~~ open & at a nearby river, took out her heart to wash it - to prove her purity - So she died & her sister then was so sorry she killed herself. Now there a temple there & they worship images of these two girls!! At the smoke & heat - a "living hell" — well - we were glad to get out of the ~~city~~ — or to a village when ~~wealthy~~ a family here just ~~rec'd~~ Christ into home 1 yr - ah their love & enthusiasm & zeal — was like a breath of ~~fragrance~~ after a draught! in & now here at Wuhu is a most marvelous work of Spirit- But more anon — I must prepare for 4:30 p.m. prayer meeting - Love Dear



Altar of Sacrifice
on
Tai Shan

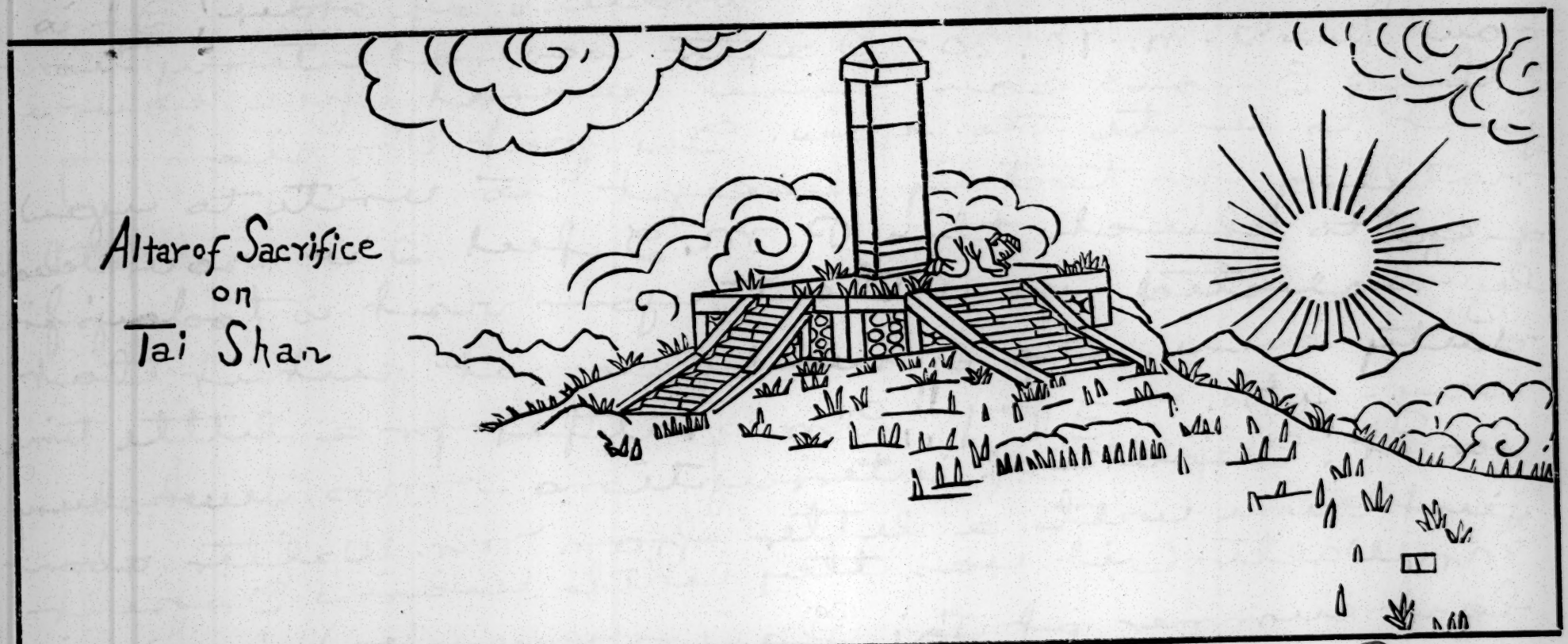
Wood cut of the altar on summit of Tai Shan + of the priest whom we saw just worshipping the morning sun.

2 Tai Yang Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
June 14, 1930

Dearest Bud + Hetta + George!

Just came in a bit weary in body but so glad for the great trip out to an islands north part of us. It is the last one now till fall as I have to stay in for a couple of meetings + will have my fourth years exams to get off before July 2. I'll really enjoy a few days at home I think as I have been traveling constantly since September and have n't been in Tsingtao 6 weeks all together since September. The longest period at any one time was ~~ten~~ days. So you can see why my letter is delayed — I'm not much in letter writing mood this evening yet — but the enclosed affair must be sped off at first opportunity — regardless of "moods" so I'll enclose a note — It won't pretend to be an answer to your good letter but

know you will understand. First- It's a disgrace to be so slow thanking you for your christmas gift. I appreciate it so much!! I used part of it to get some victrola records for my little portable which give much joy in the country. So you see your gift gives me continual joy + happiness. Thank you so much. I could just weep over the fact that your brass box was broken. Really I feel so badly - I guess I shouldn't have sent it that way. But it would go to trouble of making it to me & feel sure it can be repaired here + I'll try to get it to you again in good shape even if I have to carry it home with me. Please send it. I feel sure it could be fixed. If I can fix it I'll be happy. Sorry you were disappointed with no gift for your birthday! I've found out a German rug co. here makes rugs for Marshall Field. They make chinese designs but what I thought you'd be interested in is the Persian rugs they make. $2.90 a sq ft mex, which is not to be compared with home prices. Just now gold is high - last week one day $1 gold was $4 mex + its been $3 + more often this winter. If you've any idea of my getting you things hustle your gold out now - If I can use the rugs a year I can get them in duty free - If you wanted Persian - you might draw to match yours + color it & just give the trade name - I think I remember that you've a Keiva Bahada. Drawing sent as they do to order - after they put the rugs thru work process they look like silk - lovely! Think I'll get my Peking rug washed. Whatever else you want tell me early as I won't have much time - but as I am all of the time. Next June will come pretty quickly! I can scarcely believe it myself. Saw two girls off this week by Sibiria to see Passion Play at Oberamagau - made it seem more real. Thanks again for your loving gift - & am so sorry about the box, please send it - You probably already know about these papers, sign + send to Evelyn. Lovingly, Ina



2 Tsi Yang Road,
Tsingtao June 15, '30

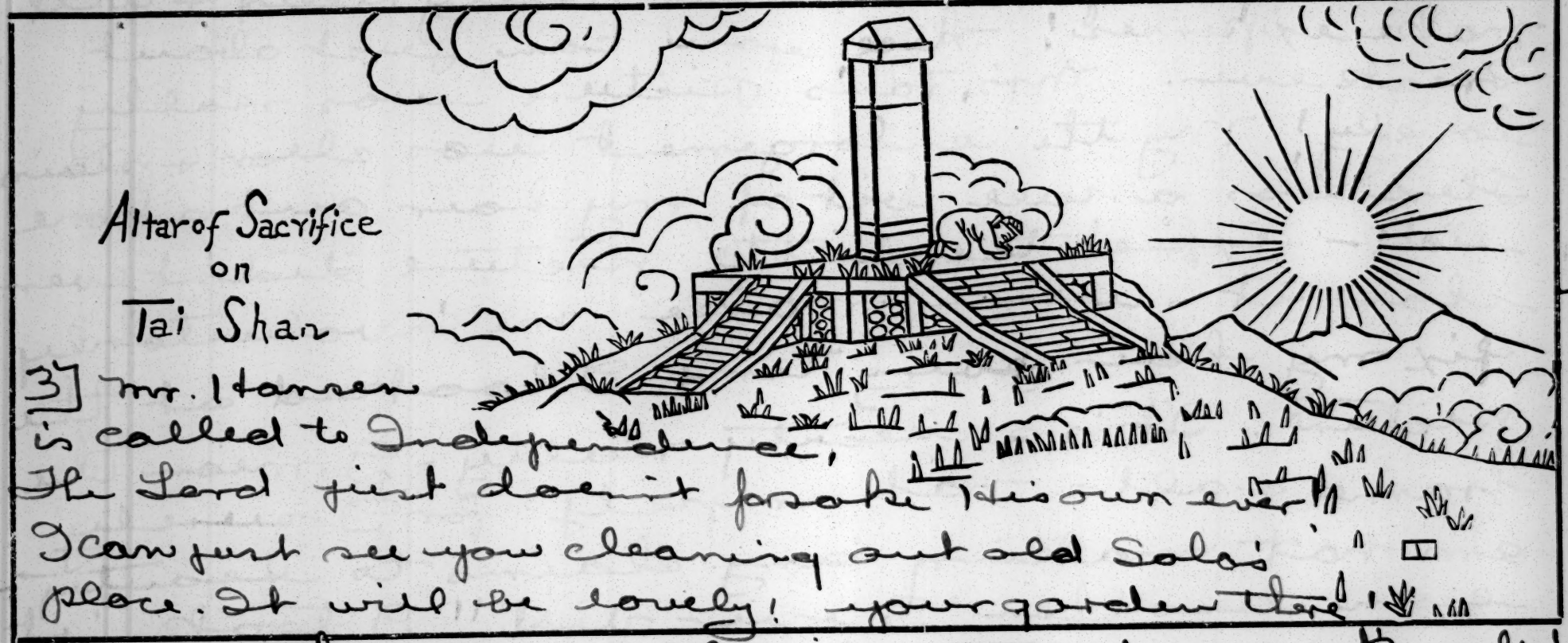
Dearest mother mine:

Precious mummie you've been so wretched by neglected + I am just sick about it - but I just ask our loving father to keep you in perfect peace + give you great joy in Him. So you won't worry! In fact I do not know just how many weeks since I wrote but its pretty near a month I fear. Well, why - honey mine - It has just been impossible to get all in - physically + from time element + from place to post etc - I praise the Master that He has brought me home thru these last trying trips + that I'm not any more tired + not ill + that He has so richly blessed all the efforts - Now I'll be home for a two weeks or couple of months maybe - so in that case you ought to get more letters now + I'll truly try to write often - I ought to be able to do every week. in I hardly know where to begin now that I have but I'll

I'll just start I guess regardless of order! It is now Sun a.m. 10:30 - I after several interruptions I think I now can have several free hours just to write to you. In fact I'm planning nothing for today except to write to you & go to church this P.M. I feel I've woefully neglected you that your visit is today's first duty even tho I surely do not put it that way - it's my joy!! I'm grateful for a little time for it. I spoke of interruptions - Mrs. Lewksbury just came with a letter from Mr. Walter about Mrs. Walter (it was they with whom I spent last summer at Lai Shan - remember) being in a very low physical condition & depressed mentally & asking our prayers! I feel such a sudden joy for her - I know we were heard. They are too valuable for Christ. Satan just can't get them that way! We had prayer & now Ruth is gone. They may come on down & stay with me. I can move out of my room easily - I have a big closet extra & my cat & essentials could go in it for a bedroom - That will come to as it may - we'll see.

Mumsie, I have seven letters which I have mentioned of yours - guess I'll begin on them first. One pack were sent to me out in the country just as I was getting on the bus to come home - so spent most of that day reading - well, I was in just a couple of days & didn't get an answer off & went again for over 2 weeks & just got back to see the next pile!

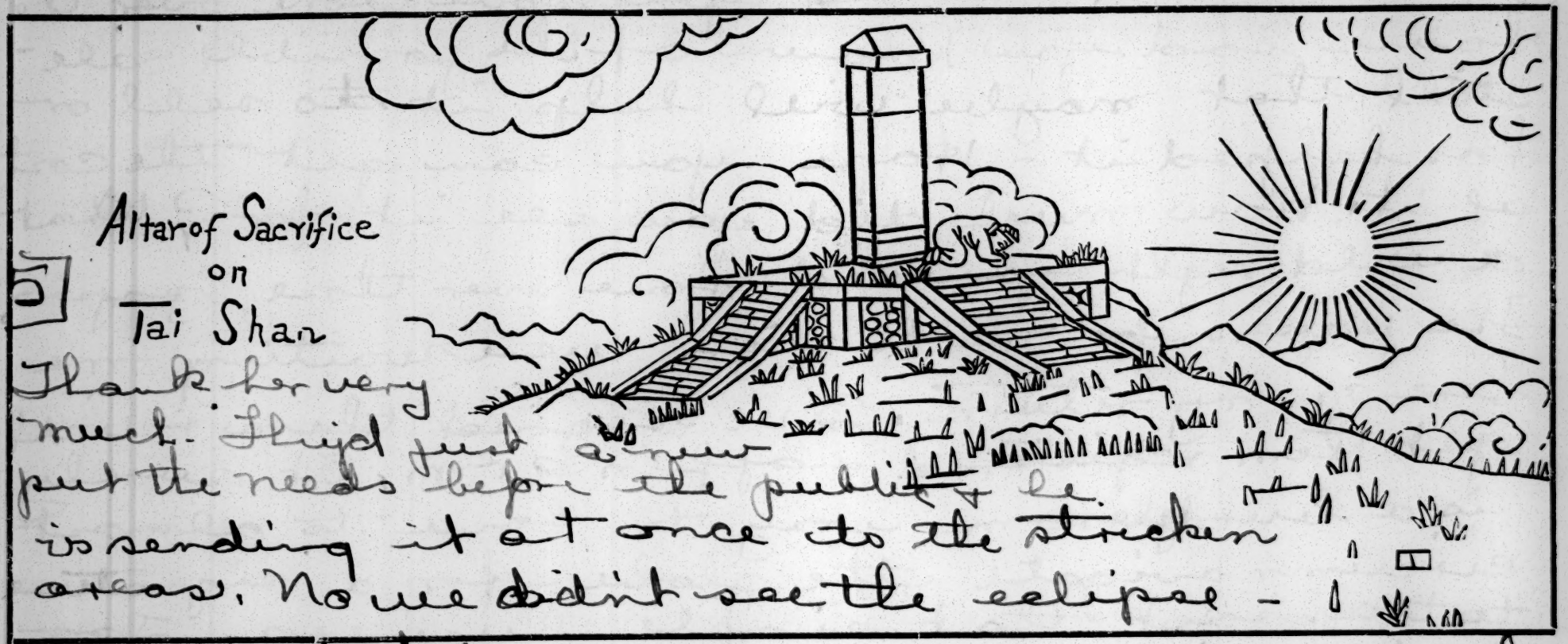
I have followed all the house cleaning & moving news with interest - am glad you're so happily settled & fixed up. It surely is great that



3] Mr. Hansen is called to Independence,
The Lord just doesn't forsake His own ever!
I can just see you cleaning out old Sola's place. It will be lovely! your garden there!

Uncle Arthur + Aunt Glennie stayed a week only! Am glad the folks + Bud + Bessie all get in so often! Good for Glen that's great they've their new home + are doing so nicely! Give them my love! Leo's visit + Bonnie's was a joy I'm sure - it is so nice that they can all come in to see you + Warren will be in too some day I expect if he comes out for his summer lectures at Los Angeles. Mumsie previous, I just wish what all you say about my putting Christ first were true! I do so long to do that, dearest, but at how I fail so often + am so far from my ideal of it all + of Him! His marvelous patience with me just is wonderful! I am glad you're conquering your fear of being alone dearest. I don't know that you need to feel you made a mistake in breaking up housekeeping at first + surely you did all + more than your share in replacing the things they'd used of yours. No honey, you did the best for the time - or then you just could not have lived alone as well as now - Such a nice Easter - almost a reunion

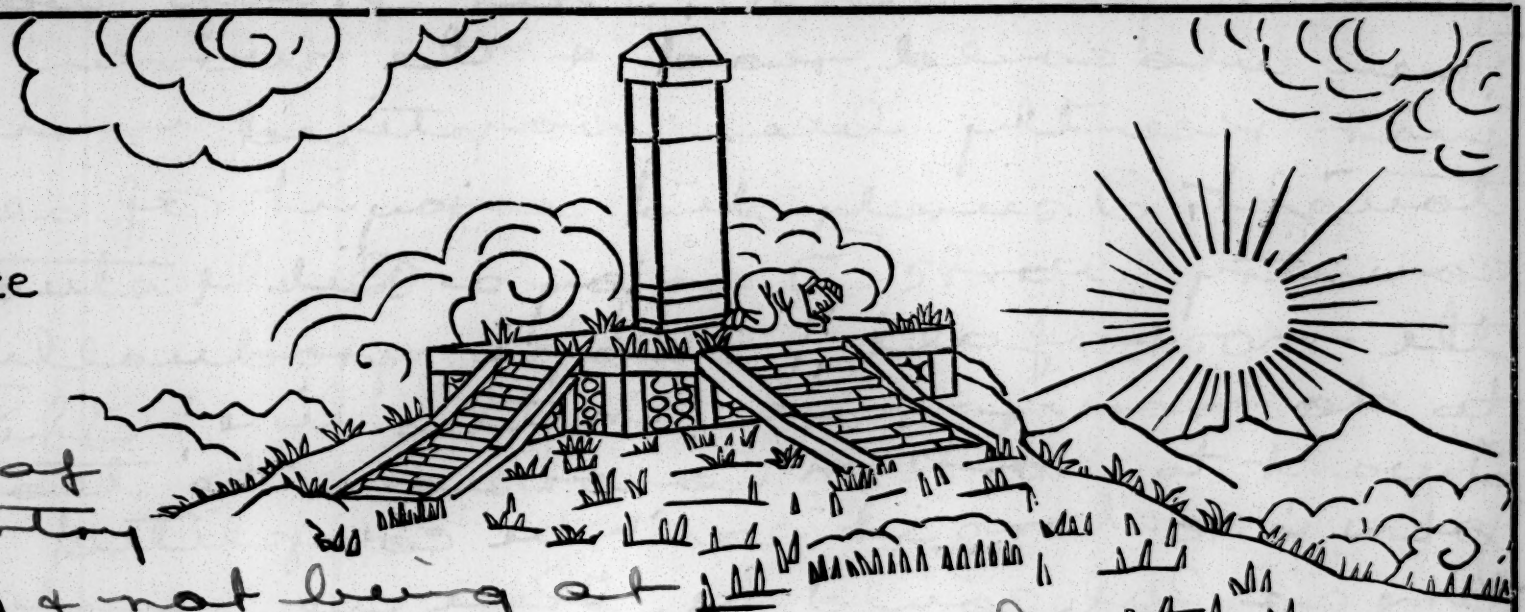
4. That's fine if Logans aren't really killed + will make expenses! Nice you can just about break even. Mrs. Tan's picture was really lovely! My the endorgement was clear + plain. There was a wee bit of my hair out at one side - expect the little picture didn't even show it - which make me involuntarily fix my hair every time I looked at the picture. It is a beauty really - I mean the frame + all - not myself for I surely am not making any claims to beauty - even less than I ever did!! I took it on my last trip + left it with the grand-daughter who will take it to her. I had I know it - mrs Tan was here yesterday + goes home is 9 a.m. She will get home sooner but it is all right. All who saw it here were very pleased with it; + felt it very interesting. By the way, mr. Miller wants my picture to put with those for whom he prays so since you have that film please get a print to send to him. I wrote thanking him! He did all of that printing as a gift (little) Imagine!! I was swamped! I'd rather he'd take the money so I could be free to ask him again. I told him you'd send the picture Thanks! I had a nice letter from mrs. Mack. I appreciated it + her so regularly praying for me. I feel she's one on whom I can truly depend to pray for me. Tell her I gave her $10. today to the man in charge of the collection of this relief money.



Thank her very much. I hid just a new put the needs before the public + he is sending it at once to the stricken areas. No we didint see the eclipse - we couldint tell. Well, I am surprised at the cucumber business but I approve - you're better out in the sunt air & I know + if you don't overwork - you can get kiddies to pick for you! Yes - yaw make a nice little sum + then laugh at them! The world do move! House sold! + for a hospital.' It is large enuf + ought to do nicely for one. That's fine. I'm glad too that it is sold. I am surprised tho - isn't it so - that one keeps looking for + when it comes feels surprised. Lucia + Jack will have to move too - well, they'll get garden stuff off + all - I am so glad they are so nice to yaw in every way + yaw're so congenial. That's the hardest part to be sure, to sell. The land fronting Hardcastle ought not to be hard to sell now - depends on future of berries I guess. You said you wanted to buy a house + lot for a permanent home. Do you want it in Woodburn? What ever you want to do you do that. I think you're wise to have a home + place of your own - don't get too large a place but also one you can

4) rent at will. Would you have done over the house had you known of the possible sale- still that maybe will help it to sell or has helped it - Hope you can get the cost of it. How much did you see it for? What a wild night you did have over those papers! The papers for me to sign were waiting me here on my return. I've signed them it will get them registered + off in a.m. It surely is a burdensome way to have to almost circumnavigate the globe for a signature to transact that simple business. Too bad Cecil made it out so. There's no change at all in Co.+ earnings etc is there? Just a change in management! Does Leo's work have any relation? or is there any change? Hope Aunt Callie is well by now! Yes, mumsie dear, on May 14 I was remembering. How quickly 3 years have gone - but too how long! Sometimes the awful longings come almost bowling one over but then there is the loving comfort of the master! Who was the moody man who was loving services? You have done so much on the place. I'm sure it is very much improved

Just now 1 2 - Had a call from one of the men who was out in one of our country places. He's a fertilizer merchant + was so wonderfully courteous to us when we were there + invited us to a big meal - I'm so glad he came in + to see him again. I'll have a dinner for him on Tues. at noon - I'll be so glad to for many reasons. I want to in first place + record - so many foreigners have the

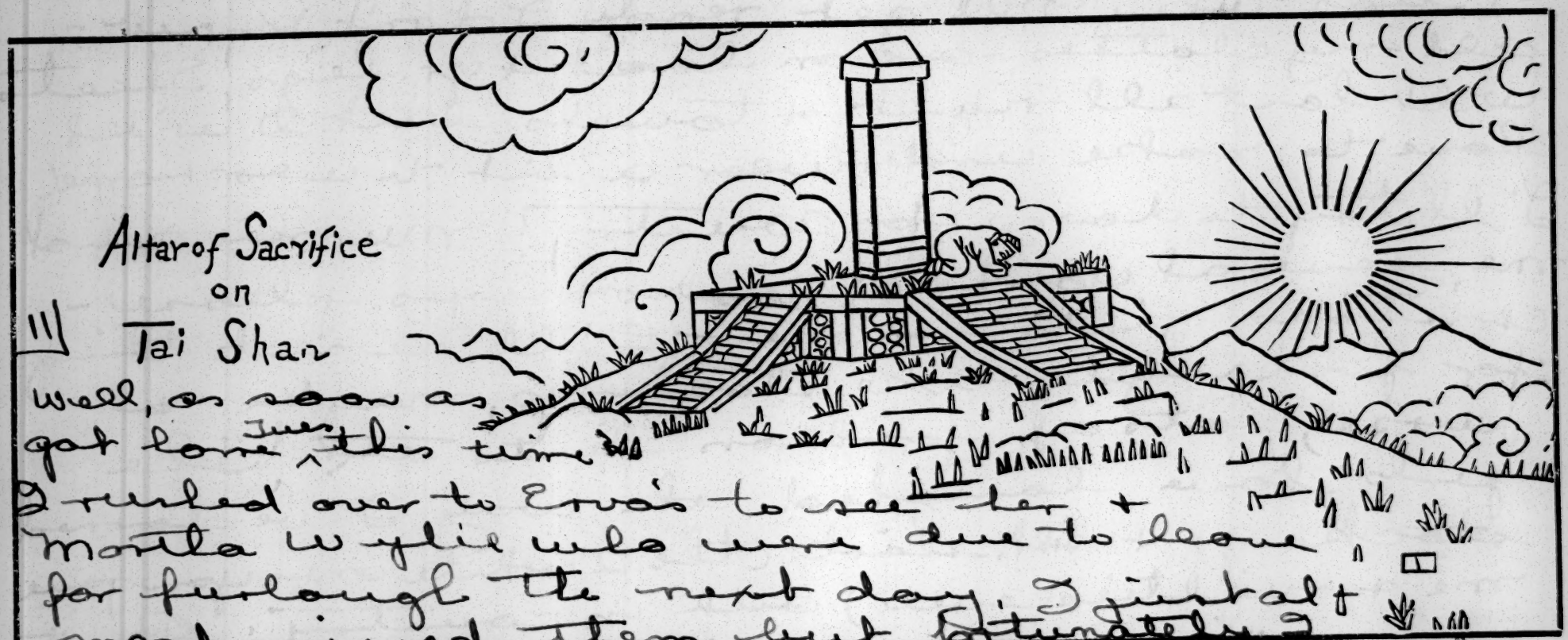


Altar of Sacrifice
on
Tai Shan

reputation of taking country hospitality & not being at all willing to give in return to those who come into the city! I surely want to avoid such a thing if possible at all!

We had such a wonderful trip this last two weeks out to an island - north east of us which has such beautiful scenery - There are numerous long fingers of the sea protruding for inland and mts and hills terraced & cultivated to the very tops. Wherever we went we seemed to bump continually into these fingers of the sea. Views of the country so like home & so unlike the flat mud plains which we see in most of our trips - The roads were pretty bad & we had a long day of bumping in a springless cart to reach a place 8li from our destination at 5:30 P.M. & carts for 'love nor money' nor "pel" must be added to this expression in China - would they go on - So at last the rest & baggage went on & I stayed in Lutheran chapel with the Bible women over night. The next A.M. early two christians came with a little mule for me to ride & to accompany me to Shih Jang. There we had some blessed

8| classes for a weeks. That group was mine, the men who could read + the women who have just recently been baptized. Miss Chow taught. I surely did enjoy it. Of all of the country work I enjoy a Bible study group the most of all !! I hope gradually to be able to do more + more in this line! This summer I want to work on Colossians to lead to them John is so long it can't be completed in a short time as Col. could be. Here we surely had a feast on sea food. Fish just caught, crabs huge $the 1 2 or 3 1 in kind big restaurants at home, fresh shrimp + nautilus, + shell fish — um! they do know how to prepare them too! After that weeks we went over around a ridge + overlooking another long arm of sea to a group of new Christians who were so earnest + sincere! The early morning prayer service + evening service there were well attended. I am first a per. woman - a Korean pastor goes preacher to go to some of those places + it has been a great experience. Then another 3 days over another ridge. The next time we must spend more time + not all our energies on the road as we did. Well, Sun before we were to come home on Mon. I spent in bed with kind of bowel running. I know now it was just a little cold in my intestines for wearing my "tummy band" cured it. I was glad it was not a "bug". Mon. a.m. + P.m. we were up + soon packed to get 110 li that day - well. I was in such pain + visited wheat fields so often - well by noon - we reached an inn + I couldn't eat - weary !! - Here the men pushing our wheelbarrows hired mules for



Altar of Sacrifice
on
Tai Shan

11

Well, as soon as I got home this time I rushed over to Erva's to see her + Martha Wylie who were due to leave for furlough the next day. Simply most missed them but fortunately I got home. I had lunch with them + ah the thrill of their going: made next year, this time seem very real indeed. That P.M. a lady at Huk had invited us all for tea + then Mrs. Eames who is back asked us for supper. My it was nice to see them all. We all got a car to go out (cheaper that way) + I just felt all dressed in foreign clothes + riding in a car that I truly had come back to another planet! Then wed. a.m. miss Hsu + Tan came. I had'nt seen her for 3 months + was so glad! The girls + Mrs. Jenks were here for chinese meal + boat left at 5- all the group of foreigners were down - we waited till the last to throw paper streamers + see the boat go! They went to Mukden to join a party of 70 going thru Siberia + Europe, Will see the Passion Play of Oberamagau, Bavaria + down to Rome- They were so thrilled. Well, it made furlough seem so real + thrilling. I'll be out so much

12] that when I'll get ready I don't know - all my clothes - are on last 4 yr. legs! Sheets will last all right + towels but I will have to make underwear a bit - to wear home! I'll try to darn for country! mumsie send me several yards of toilet + eyes please - Christmas gifts for me - I'll want things for furlough like stockings, maybe a purse, bits of jewelry pants etc! The girls have laughed the way I've darned stockings + silk skirts (the 2 white ones you gave me + nighties even) out in country. But all say "make them last". The first hints of spring coat I want. My two coats still are without holes but re style etc I don't know. might get one remodeled here before to make it a bit up to date. Whatever in rugs or things the family want better hustle up a letter for now is time to buy silver $1 dollar is 3 mex now -

Now dinner is over + Prayers with cook. I'll always + I've written today to you. half of my news but I must close as it will soon be church time + I'll write again but close now to get this in the mail as I go to church. My precious mumsy I love you so. I am so sorry my letter is so deluged but I know you'll understand! Bye dear, all my love to you! What you want me to bring you from China? I'm not sure I'm going away for vocation - maybe tho to Pentaho. -

Love to all Irene

Thank Ray for "Place" I'll send it to Stella -